

[An Elegant Sufficiency, or the Curious Case of a Victorian Meme](#)

PhD placement student Rowan Campbell writes: It sometimes strikes me just how much chance and canny timing have to do with the way we experience the world. While cataloguing audio files, I came across the following speaker (born 1944, London) who tells us that her great-grandmother used to say “I’ve...

[Recording of the week: anyone for tig/it/tag?](#)

This week’s selection comes from Jonnie Robinson, Lead Curator of Spoken English. The Lore and Language of Schoolchildren (Peter and Iona Opie, 1959) lists numerous regional variants for ‘truce terms’ – the code word used to withdraw briefly from a playground chasing game or to seek immunity from capture –...

[Recording of the week: the four rooms of creativity](#)

This week’s selection comes from David Govier, Oral History Archivist. Why do a corporate oral history? The late Wally Olins, co-founder of Wolff Olins, explains his mixed motivations in wanting to set up an oral history of the company – from an urge for immortality, to the representative nature of...

[Linguistics at the Library – Episode 5](#)

PhD placement students, Andrew Booth and Rowan Campbell write: This week is a bumper episode because Andrew and Rowan are joined by Rosy Hall, who completed her PhD placement at the British Library in 2017! We discuss island communities and why these are linguistically interesting, before hearing

about Rosy's own...

[Recording of the week: South African gumboot guitar](#)

This week's selection comes from Dr Janet Topp Fargion, Lead Curator of World and Traditional Music. I was studying Zulu street guitarists in Durban in 1984 when I met Blanket Mkhize, a guitarist from Glebelands male hostel in Umlazi township on the outskirts of the city. Blanket had a fascinating...